

00862.022517

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

KEIJI EMOTO

Application No.: 10/068,841

Filed: February 11, 2002

For: LINEAR MOTOR, STAGE APPARATUS,)
EXPOSURE APPARATUS, AND DEVICE:)
MANUFACTURING METHOD)

Examiner: Iraj A. Mohandesi

Group Art Unit: 2834

August 16, 2004

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Esther Yvette WrightWRITTEN STATEMENT OF INTERVIEW

Sir:

On August 16, 2004, Applicant's undersigned representative conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner to discuss the rejection of independent Claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,770,899. The rejection was set forth in the Official Action mailed May 24, 2004.

Applicant's representative explained that Claim 22, the only independent claim currently under rejection, had been amended by Amendment dated February 3, 2004, but that it appeared that the outstanding rejection was based on the pre-existing language of Claim 22 and

not on Claim 22 as amended. Claim 22 had been amended to recite that the metal film was provided at least at a surface of the magnet which faces the coil.

Applicant's representative also explained that in U.S. Patent No. 5,770,899, and particularly Figure 4 thereof, the magnet 39 did not contain a metal film at its surface, and thus the applied art did not anticipate Claim 22.

The Examiner agreed that the Official Action had issued based on the claim language as it existed prior to the Amendment of February 3, 2004, and advised Applicant's representative that he would issue a new Official Action, taking into consideration the amendments of February 3, 2004. Based on Applicant's representative's explanation of U.S. Patent No. 5,770,899, the Examiner also agreed that Claim 22 as amended would distinguish over that patent and that an additional search was necessary.

Applicant's representative will not respond to the present outstanding Official Action and will await issuance of a new Official Action or Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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